



Vendor Update

A Publication of the Maryland WIC Program

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Community and Public Health Administration
July 1, 2001 Volume I, Issue 1

New Compliance Officer

James A. Butler has joined the Maryland WIC Program as Chief Compliance Officer. Mr. Butler will be responsible for overseeing vendor compliance activities, enrollment of new vendors, and State regulations pertaining to vendors. Mr. Butler has twelve years of State service and looks forward to working with the WIC vendor community. Please feel free to contact him at 410-767-5258 with questions or problems pertaining to vendor matters.

State Regulations To Be Revised

The Maryland WIC Program is currently revising Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) covering the WIC Program to conform with recent changes to Federal regulations. These changes are expected to increase program accountability and efficiency in food delivery and related areas and decrease vendor violations of program requirements and loss of program funds. Vendors will receive a draft of the revisions and will be asked for comments.



WIC Authorized Foods

A number of participants have experienced difficulty purchasing cheese and milk with WIC checks. WIC participants may

purchase any brand of American cheese. Participants may also purchase Mozzarella (string cheese included), Colby, Provolone, Monterey Jack, Cheddar (mild, sharp, extra sharp), and Swiss. Participants may purchase any of these types in cubes. These cheeses may be purchased in combination



and can be purchased at the store delicatessen. **Not allowed** are imported or shredded cheese; cheese foods; cheese products; cheese spreads; cheese dips; cheese balls; cheese with wine, nuts, seeds, jalapenos or pimentos; cheese and cracker packs; and organic cheese.

Lactose-reduced milk (nonfat, low fat, whole), Calcimilk, and Sweet Acidophilus milk are allowed for purchase by participants if the check states "fluid milk." **Not allowed** are flavored milks, buttermilk, sweetened condensed milk, goat milk, and organic milk. If you have any questions about allowable foods, or would like an authorized food list, please contact JoAnn McGowen at 410-767-5251.

Check Redemption Procedures

All vendors are reminded that when accepting WIC checks, the purchase amount is to be entered on the check **prior** to signing by the participant. Receipts should be provided with



every purchase. Participants are not required to purchase everything listed on the check. However, you may only redeem the check for the items purchased. Please ensure that cashiers are knowledgeable in these procedures.

You are also reminded that you



are required to mark prices on all food items and post shelf prices as well. Please contact JoAnn McGowen at 410-767-5251 if you

have questions or would like signage, which offered at no-charge.

Infant Formula

All vendors (with the exception of pharmacies) are required to carry the minimum stock. Pharmacies and combination food store/pharmacies must be able to provide, within 48 hours of request (excluding weekends and holidays), any of the following special formulas:



- Alimentum
- Alsoy
- Enfamil w/iron, premature 20 calories per oz.
- Enfamil w/iron, premature 24 calories per oz.
- Enfamil Next Step Soy Toddler Formula
- Ensure (All Flavors)
- Ensure with fiber
- Isomil
- Lactofree
- Lofenalac
- Nutramigen
- Pediasure - All Flavors
- Pediasure with fiber
- Portagen
- Pregestimil
- Similac with iron
- Similac NeoSure
- Similac Pm 60/40

Phenyl-Free has been discontinued by Mead Johnson. If you have questions about infant formula, please contact Amy Kovar Resnik, Nutrition Specialist, at 410-767-6902. If you experience difficulty obtaining any of these formulas, please contact James A. Butler at 410-767-5258.

Discontinued Product Alert

Kelloggs Mini-Wheats Apple Cinnamon (on the Authorized Foods List as Apple Cinnamon Squares Mini-Wheats) has been discontinued by the manufacturer. While vendors still have this product in stock, it may be purchased using WIC checks. It will be removed from the Authorized Foods List at the next printing.

WIC WINS IS HERE!

What is WIC WINS? WIC WINS is the name of the Maryland WIC Program's software application that will provide major upgrades to the Program's client, financial management, and vendor operations. WIC WINS is expected to enter pilot phase in Washington County. The only change vendors will notice will be the color and design of WIC checks changing from the current gold to purple.



Statewide implementation of the new system is expected to be completed in early 2002. If you have any questions about the new checks, please contact Vicky Reck at 410-767-5254.

Vendor Feedback

We want to make your participation in the WIC Program a rewarding experience. **WE NEED YOU!** Your input is valued and strongly encouraged. If you have suggestions or comments, please feel free to contact James A. Butler at 410-767-5258.



USDA prohibits discrimination in the administration of its programs.